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Bolivia resists racist coup

By Greg Butterfield

On Nov. 19, the tenth day of the coup against legitimate, democratically elected Bolivian President Evo Morales, police and soldiers fired from helicopters into a crowd of protesters—Indigenous people, workers and peasants—blockading a fuel depot in El Alto, the South American country's largest city and a center of resistance near the capital, La Paz.

The protesters were demanding the resignation of self-proclaimed interim President Jeanine Añez. Reports say at least one person and possibly as many as six were killed and 23 wounded.

Four days earlier, in the Indigenous stronghold of Huayllani, Cochabamba, nine people were shot dead during protests against the U.S.-backed coup regime. A relative of Armando Carballo, a peasant farmer who was among the victims, said: "My brother-in-law died with three gunshot impacts. Leaves a 2-year-old girl in the orphanage. We ask for justice for our brother."

In all, at least 24 people have been killed, more than 700 wounded and over a thousand arrested since the military ousted Bolivia's first Indigenous president on Nov. 10, after the U.S.-dominated Organization of American States supported opposition claims of election fraud — without proof.

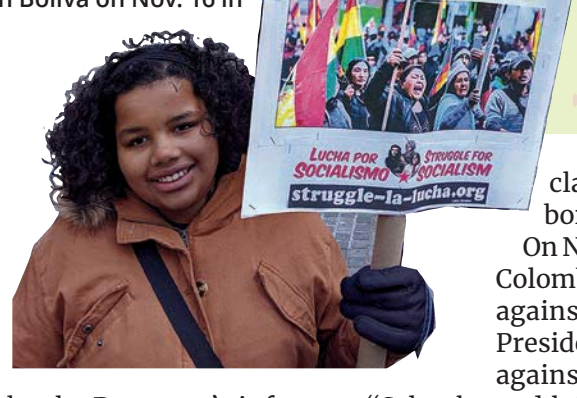
Morales and Vice President Álvaro García Linera, both representing the Movement Towards Socialism (MAS), were forced to leave the country, accepting asylum in Mexico under threat of assassination by police groups.

"We will be back and join the fight to strengthen our social forces," Morales told Al-Jazeera.

The coup plotters, fronted by Añez, proclaimed the military free to fire on unarmed protesters with no consequences. Independent journalists are being driven from the country. So were Cuban health workers, after four of them were arrested on bogus charges of funding the anti-coup protests. Diplomats of Bolivarian Venezuela were expelled. Añez and another pretender "president," Juan Guaidó of Venezuela, have expressed their mutual admiration.

STRUGGLE-LA-LUCHA PHOTOS: GREG BUTTERFIELD

Protest against the coup in Boliva on Nov. 16 in New York City.



Undefeated and fighting back

Looking at these facts in isolation, the situation seems grim.

But the Bolivian people are not giving up. They have not been defeated. They are fighting back.

Despite the danger, protests are growing. Braving teargas and live ammunition, huge marches from the countryside are converging on urban centers, especially La Paz. While the repressive forces were attacking in El Alto on Nov. 19, thousands of rural teachers marched into the capital at the head of a major labor demonstration.

Many protesters carry the colorful Wiphala flag—representing the Indigneous people of Bolivia and surrounding countries—which was torched by the racist-fascist forces that earlier mobilized against President Morales.

Indigenous-led groups are organizing armed self-defense. Communities have established bodies of self-government.

This mass courage and determination helps to strengthen the resolve of the political representatives of the movement in La Paz. The Congress, where members of the MAS form a majority, have refused to accept Morales' forced resignation or to recognize the legitimacy of the coup regime.

Significantly, there are reports that rank-and-file soldiers, many of them Indigenous people themselves, are starting to break away and join the protesters, refusing to repress the people.

A report sent by email to Morales supporters on Nov. 20 states: "The coup regime inside Bolivia is falling apart at the seams. According to sources inside the military, there has been friction, both between the military and the police, and between their respective leaders and foot soldiers."

The report continues: "Bolivian media have reported that Bruce Williamson at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz has operated as a bag man, doling out millions of dollars to generals and police chiefs. Local media have reported that the general who told Morales to resign has already left for the USA with his money. The Bolivian news report states that it expects more generals to follow suit as they are fearful of being put on trial for their repressive acts, not to mention their corruption."

The mask of "democracy" and "human rights" fashioned by their masters in Washington fits poorly on the crude white supremacists, anti-Indigenous racists and fascists at the center of the coup, and the military and police officials trained by the Pentagon's infamous "School of the Americas" and the FBI. Añez herself is known for her racist, anti-Indigenous views.

International struggle

Most important, the struggle of the Bolivian people is not isolated. A furious class struggle rages across the South American continent and the Caribbean, where the people of Haiti continue to resist under harsh repression.

Everywhere, the forces of the people—workers and peasants, Indigenous and Afro-descendants, women and LGBTQ2S people—are measuring their strength against the capitalist oligarchs and their repressive forces (military, police, death squads), behind whom stands U.S. imperialism.

In Brazil, the people's relentless struggle and the resulting internal conflicts within the ruling class won the release of former President Lula da Silva of the Workers Party just days before the coup in Bolivia.

In Chile, the people continue to rise after more than a month of mass protests, despite horrific violence like police targeting the eyes of demonstrators, blinding more than 200 so far. They have forced the Sebastián Piñera government to agree to rewrite the Pinochet-era constitution.

But the half-measures proposed by the U.S. stooges in Santiago have not demobilized the people, who demand a Constituent Assembly and genuine change in the relationship between rich and poor, a process that was brutally postponed more than four decades ago by the coup that overthrew Salvador Allende's socialist government on 9/11/1973.

Chilean protesters have proclaimed, "Neoliberalism was born in Chile, and it will die here."

On Nov. 21, workers and students in Colombia will stage a general strike against the death-squad regime of President Iván Duque. Repression against Indigenous communities and left forces by the traitorous Lenin Moreno government in Ecuador is setting the stage for a new uprising like the one that won concessions against an International Monetary Fund austerity plan earlier this fall.

Following the election of a new, left-leaning president in October, workers in Argentina have held massive protests in Buenos Aires and other cities against the coup in Bolivia and in solidarity with the Indigenous resistance there. Resistance is building in Peru and Uruguay.

Bolivarian Venezuela and socialist Cuba—fortresses of popular power besieged by U.S. imperialism and its oligarchic allies with blockades, sanctions, military threats and slanders—continue to resist and offer every assistance they can to the people in struggle.

In Bolivia and elsewhere, the masses are learning valuable lessons every day: by developing new, effective tactics of resistance; that the state cannot be merely taken over but must be smashed and replaced with the power of the workers and oppressed; how the capitalist media turn reality on its head, portraying right-wing violence as heroic while ignoring or disparaging genuine popular protest.

Let's take inspiration from the resisting people of Bolivia to strain with every fibre of our being toward destroying the evil system of capitalism and imperialism in the U.S. and around the world. In the words of the socialist anthem, The Internationale, "a better world's in birth."

For updates on Bolivia and info on upcoming solidarity actions, visit Struggle-La-Lucha.org.

Español a página 8

INSIDE

- Excluidas en audiencias de destitución las preocupaciones de las masas
- DÍA NACIONAL DE LUTO
- Impeachment
- Farmworkers protest at Wendy's
- Safe spaces for Black bodies
- Lula Livre
- Cuba conference
- Hong Kong
- Gaza
- L.A. protests Bolivia coup
- National Day of Morning

Concerns of masses shut out of impeachment hearings

By Fred Goldstein

Tens of millions in this country and around the world justifiably want to see the right-wing bully, racist, misogynist bigot Trump brought down. But they are being forced to choose between Trump, who wants to blame his troubles on Ukraine, and the camp that wants to attack Russia.

The Democratic Party leadership has chained the progressive masses to a defense of U.S. ruling-class militarism as the price for impeaching Trump.

Tens of millions in this country and around the world justifiably want to see the right-wing bully, racist, misogynist bigot Trump brought down. But they are being forced to choose between Trump, who wants to blame his troubles on Ukraine, and the camp that wants to attack Russia.

This is a completely false and dead-end choice.

This line of argument has been set forth by Nancy Pelosi, Steny Hoyer, Adam Shiff and company, their lawyers and their corporate backers. The political masterminds behind this impeachment strategy have set up the proceedings to be especially harmful to the workers and the oppressed.

Legitimate reasons to want Trump out

Let us recount some of the legitimate reasons that people want to get rid of Trump.

He called Mexicans rapists and criminals on his first day running for office and has continued to vilify immigrants ever since. He has forced migrants fleeing gangs and death squads fostered by imperialist puppet governments away from the U.S. southern border.

Trump cruelly separated families at the border, put children in cages and moved children and parents hundreds of miles apart without any way of reuniting them. And he has waged a war on Black and Latinx immigrants, calling Africa and Haiti "shithole" countries, and more.

Trump also tried to ban Muslims from the country. He has been sued by 14 women for sexual assault. He has bragged about abusing women and grabbing their genitals.

He has moved legally against LGBTQ2S peoples' rights. He has pardoned war criminals and reactionaries. He has used the White House to constantly enrich himself.

Silence on tax breaks, U.S. militarism

As for his attitude toward the ruling class, Trump has handed the military record budgets and given the commanders wide authority to launch operations in the field, despite disparaging NATO. He has plied the bosses and bankers with tax breaks to the tune of $1.5 trillion. He has given the corporate plunderers gifts of environmental and safety deregulation, while plundering and poisoning the land, sea and air — all the while characterizing the very real danger of climate change as a hoax.

As the impeachment hearings are going on, the Trump administration is waging war on the Bolivian Indigenous leader, three-time President Evo Morales. Bolivian generals trained in subversion and repression by the U.S. School of the Americas put the Bolivian masses under assault.

At the same time, Trump and Pompeo have been trying to overthrow the progressive, anti-imperialist Venezuelan government of Nicolás Maduro.

The Pentagon has moved to seize Syria's oil wells and has assisted Turkish president Recip Erdogan in persecuting the Syrian Kurds.

Not a word about all this in the hearings.

Impeachment a trap for workers and oppressed

The Democratic Party leadership has carefully orchestrated these hearings to exclude all subjects that are of concern to the progressive masses. There has not been a word about corporate giveaways, accelerated destruction of the environment, record military budgets, massive and growing inequality, wage erosion, underemployment, poverty, food deprivation or voter suppression in their calls to save their "democracy."

All the capitalist media have broadcast this reactionary circus. No commentators have criticized the politicians for leaving out the genuine concerns of the people. This has been one big election maneuver for the Demcratic Party leadership in the run-up to the 2020 elections. It has been one great evasion of the real burning issues of mass concern. It has revealed in bold relief the fraud of capitalist parliamentarism.

If there were any semblance of democracy in this process, mass organizations would have been given the opportunity to frame the questions, call and cross-examine witnesses from the ruling-class establishment and frame the articles of impeachment in accord with the needs and desires of the people.

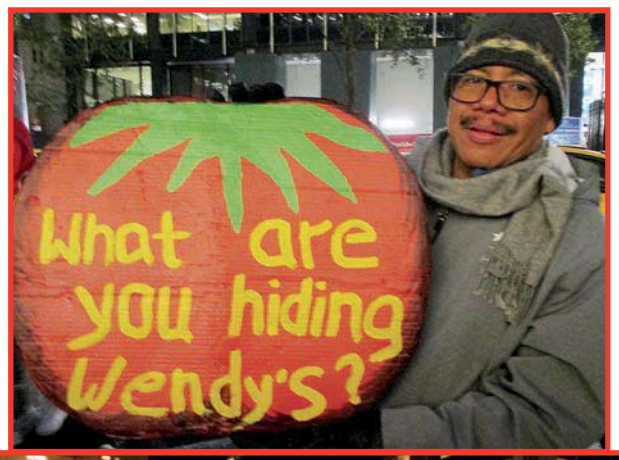
Of course nothing even approaching this is possible under capitalist democracy, which is designed to foster the interests of capital and suppress any anti-capitalist dissent.

What is really needed is a mass mobilization, a giant coalition of the workers' and community organizations, student and immigrant rights groups, women's and LGBTQ2S organizations, to mobilize on the ground and drive, not just Trump, but the capitalist politicians, the government bureaucrats and the lobbyists from their positions of privilege and political strongholds. This would be preliminary to launching an attack on capitalism itself.

Read the full article at http://shorturl.at/cqsu1

'What do we want? JUSTICE! Boycott Wendy's!'

By Anne Pruden



SLL PHOTOS: ANNE PRUDEN

New York, Nov. 18 — Hundreds of Immokalee farmworkers and supporters took over the block outside Wendy's headquarters this afternoon. Inside the upscale Manhattan offices at 280 Park Avenue were several of Wendy's board of directors.

The fast food giant refuses to pay the workers that pick their tomatoes a penny more per pound.

Showing a colorful display of signs, flags and banners, this very multinational and youth-led rally had speakers and music. They exposed the Wendy's bosses for refusing to support human rights protections for Florida farmworkers who harvest tomatoes.

Wendy's management refuses to agree to worker-led monitoring that has ended sexual harassment, forced labor and other longlasting abusive violations.

Militant supporters chanted, "Down, down, exploitation! Up, up, fair food nation!" at this lively, bilingual rally. Religious leaders voiced support.

Hundreds stepped into the streets. Marching for blocks, the Immokalee worker-led protest drew more support.

New York is a union town and should stand strong against the Wendy's bosses. Until they comply with the fair food program, "Boycott Wendy's!" is the message of the day.

A talk given at the event 'People Fight Back at Home and in South America' at the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice in Los Angeles on Nov. 2.

When others go low, and you die: The loss of safe spaces for Black bodies

By Rebecka Jackson-Moeser

Hundreds attended the funeral of Atatiana Jefferson after she was murdered in her home by a Ft. Worth cop on Oct. 12, 2019.

The abutting murders of Botham Jean and Atatiana Jefferson by police in Texas seem to be pertinent markers of the degradation of safe spaces for Black bodies.

I reflect on the few moments of rest and joy a Black person may find; a moment of privacy to enjoy a snack in your home, family time with a young child that you love. I also reflect on the constant unrest a Black person always feels, even in those moments; the impending sense of doom, knowing it could be taken at any time.

Before Botham and Atatiana there was Aiyana Stanley Jones and Kenneth Chamberlain Sr. and all of the endless cases in between. Every 28 hours and there are only so many of us.

Unwillingly, an incident that happened to me this summer will not let my mind rest as I reflect on these cases. I want to dismiss it, I want to not give this malefactor any more time or space in my life, and yet her tale so perfectly encapsulates the sentiment of the white ruling class against Black bodies. I feel it necessary to call out this woman by name to hopefully help other Black artists avoid her exploitation.

The tale of Shirley Morales

During a group trip to Senegal that was centered on celebrating Black artists, I was introduced to a white gallery owner, Shirley Morales. During the activities and excursions, Shirley somehow found a way to, time and time again, insert her opinion on how she thought the Black, Muslim nation should be run.

I ignored her for days as she complained about how the cab drivers didn't deserve the money they were making and how inconvenienced she was at the people celebrating Ramadan. In a large group, it was easy enough to avoid her, yet it was as if she was following me.

One day at a group brunch, I was sequestered in a quiet corner after everyone else had finished eating, deep in a personal conversation with a brother from Ghana about police brutality in the United States. Suddenly Shirley appears, she makes herself at home at our table even though there are plenty of open spaces.

I continue, unfazed, as I refuse to censor myself in a majority-Black country trying to have a majority Black conversation. I am in the middle of describing the pointedly systematized way in which police officers hunt down Black people, when Shirley interjects, "Well everyone has a choice."

I am confused, stunned that she felt it her right to interrupt me and honestly unsure of what she could mean. "Excuse me?" I counter.

She is emboldened. "Well if that happens, it means people had a choice to be in those situations." I pause, I really wonder if she is saying what I think she is. "So are you saying Black people choose to get shot by the police?"

I can tell she is uncomfortable with saying this explicitly, but she shoots back, "Well ya. If they are in those situations, they made a choice and I don't want to hear this anymore, so it's my choice to leave." And in true Mephistopheles form she scuttles away as fast as she can after trying to ruin someone's whole day.

I was truly confounded. I'm sure my head was floating at a solid 3 o'clock angle for more than a few moments. The audacity, the total pomposity, had left me truly speechless, a rare and stunning occurrence.

Does this in any way touch the horror of the murders we have experienced, the lives lost to white people thinking they can shoot into the homes of Black folks? Of course not, but I do believe this is where it starts: white people who have the gall to invade Black spaces and violate them. It's just a comment or a "joke," a violation of personal space, a purse clutch, an interruption — but what happens when those people are armed? The people who think Bothem and Atatiana and Aiyana and Kenneth had choices. And even when you are not in the alleged safe space of your home, that you should die for selling loosies, or smoking joints or walking or breathing. The same people who think they should be able to thrive off of the labor and exploitation of Black bodies.

I later realized that I had actually been to Shirley's gallery before I met her on that trip. I went to see a Black performance artist whose work I admired. Now I know what he represented to her: a paycheck. The same thing our bodies have always represented to the ruling class. Just another way to make a dollar.

What safe space?

I often think about Michelle Obama's famous line, "When others go low, you go high." But no matter how high you put your hands in the air they will still squeeze the trigger, posthumously assigning your thugness as your cause of death. When they go low, but you should have went lower, hit the ground so maybe the bullet would miss through that open window. When they go low, but all you have left is the blood pooling around your body, your last breath when you can't breathe, your back snapped hogtied. All of the choices. Just go high. I wonder — is high an afterlife? Is that the last safe space?

We are seemingly in the golden age of Black artists. Millions being spent to own a little piece of Black talent that has always been, yet now is worth acknowledging since there is money to be made. Hang it on the wall where it will stare back but remain silent. The owner can assign whatever feelings and values they choose to their new purchase. An image of a Black body forever stuck in servitude, the entertainment of their master.

Black bodies are currency, both actual and social. Labor sold in prisons, talent exported and exploited. What can a safe space mean when we are merely inconveniences or dollar signs?

There is a growing emphasis on "safe spaces," but how safe can we make them when at any time they are scared, confused, bored — we become target practice, a pin cushion for their spare bullets. When they can kick down the door, shoot through the window, bomb us out, gentrify our neighborhoods, give us predatory loans?

I think of India Kager in her car with baby in tow, 30 rounds. In a parked car, 9 seconds, they saw the baby. But they did not see the baby, not as a human, not as our future. I won't continue to expound, I can't imagine what type of being shoots at a baby. I would not feel it necessary to kill a mosquito 30 times over, to delight in its suffering, plan for it, stalk it, make memes about, start hate groups about it, celebrate it.

Capitalism and Black artists

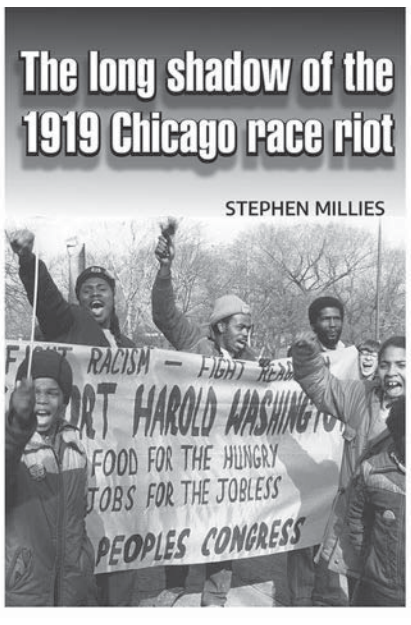
We cannot be viewed as more than currency under capitalism. The legacy of white supremacy's monumental growth under capitalism will always mark us as dollar signs, something to be bought, manipulated, traded, wasted.

As an artist, I feel it my duty to analyze and discuss the modes in which art can be used to ignite the revolution and the ways it is misappropriated by the ruling class. The artworld is just catching up to sports and entertainment for exploiting Black artists. Though they were late to realize the infinite cultural capital and talent created by Black artists, they are now methodically cashing in on our creative skills.

We are surviving in abject fascist conditions, we cannot consider our collective freedom under any conditions until we collectively end capitalism. It is the only way to build any space that can be safe.

As fascism collectively strains the lives and work of Black art makers, we must make a concentrated effort to keep Black art in the community and support the work of emerging artists as they create art to uplift our communities.

COVER PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL



The long shadow of the 1919 Chicago race riot

The Struggle La Lucha Series by Stephen Millies is now available in a pamphlet form. The following articles are included:

- Bombings greet the Great Migration
- What did the unions do?
- Communists fight racism and evictions
- Chicago Mayor Daley's racist machine
- Never forget Fred Hampton
- The people put Harold Washington in City Hall
- A city of struggle

Get the pamphlet at https://tinyurl.com/1919chicago

Lula livre!

Struggle wins freedom of former Brazilian president

By Jefferson Azevedo

After 580 days, one of the most famous political prisoners on the planet, former Brazilian President Luis Inácio Lula Da Silva, was finally released on Nov. 8. But his struggle for justice and freedom continues.

In a controversial ruling decided by one vote, Brazil's Supreme Federal Tribunal (STF) voted to deny the imprisonment of defendants who are found guilty until all appeals are exhausted. This was the case with Lula, who was sentenced to prison after being found guilty of corruption and money laundering. Six out of 11 ministers—as Brazilian Supreme Court judges are called—voted to uphold what is written in the constitution.

Although it is stipulated in the Brazilian Constitution that no person who is accused of a crime, if found guilty, shall be imprisoned until all appeals are exhausted, the former president, union head and leader for the Workers Party (PT) was sent to jail by a first stance judge (a lower court with no jury trial). It is important to point out that this law does not apply to repeat offenders and to crimes deemed to be violent.

The weaponization of the law in Brazil, or "lawfare" as it is commonly known there, is a mechanism that has been used often in the last decade. With the help of corrupt judges and the use of false accusations, or accusations of activities that are commonly done by many politicians and members of society in general, and thus not considered a crime, the ruling class targets politicians that do not acquiesce to its demands. By the same token, it acquits or refuses to indict those who are on their side, even when there is a lot of material evidence of wrongdoings and crimes.

Such was the case of a helicopter that was caught carrying 500 kilos of cocaine in 2013. It belonged to a federal senator who was never indicted or investigated. The pilot of the helicopter is now a member of Congress. More politicians and plutocrats are linked to this case, but not a single one has been indicted.

Lula greeted by supporters in São Bernardo do Campo, Nov. 9.

'Lawfare' against Workers Party leaders

Before Lula, the most famous victim of this tactic was Dilma Roussef, another former president from the PT who was ousted in a judicial-parliamentary coup in 2014. Lawfare has grown substantially since Roussef's ousting. Her impeachment was only possible with the help of some of the STF ministers.

The successful coup against Dilma made the Brazilian oligarchs even more powerful — for now they had the means to manipulate the laws to finally defeat the PT and put its leaders in jail. Lula was the main prize!

On trumped-up charges, with no evidence of wrongdoing, Federal Judge Sergio Moro sentenced Lula to 9 years, 6 months, in prison in first stance. After appealing on second stance (higher court), the former president had his sentence increased to 12 years, 11 months, by a judge who plagiarized other judges, including Moro, to write her opinion.

Lula was immediately called to serve his sentence. After two days of resistance inside the headquarters of the Metalworkers Union in the city of São Bernardo do Campo, he was sent to a federal prison in the mostly white and reactionary state of Parana, where Judge Moro was based. All this was timed so that Lula would be unable to run in the 2018 presidential election or support any candidate.

Lula was denied interviews, visits and any type of public comment until it was safe enough to guarantee the victory of the candidate supported by the Brazilian elites. The 2018 election was won by ultrarightist Jair Bolsonaro, and his victory opened the doors to the full implementation of neoliberal policies and the privatization of what is left of nationalized industry. Judge Moro was nominated as minister of justice as payback for his help in Bolsonaro's election.

Meanwhile, people throughout Brazil and around the world continued to protest loudly for the former president's freedom with the "Lula Livre" campaign.

Oligarchs' infighting creates opening

After thinking that they could easily control Bolsonaro, some sectors of the oligarchy and some STF ministers are now being attacked by their own Frankenstein monster.

The largest media conglomerate in Brazil, Globo Organizations, and the largest newspaper, Folha De São Paulo, are in a battle with Bolsonaro. Threatened with no renewal of their licenses and by the alliance formed between Bolsonaro and other media conglomerate owners, they need something else to keep their creature busy with, and the best option is Lula.

Lula will divert Bolsonaro's attention and, at least, divide the attention of his supporters, who angrily demand the shutdown of the Supreme Court, these media outlets, and the return of the military dictatorship, among other reactionary measures.

The "Bolsominions," as Bolsonaro's followers are called by the resistance, are in their vast majority white petty-bourgeois people who still have not accepted that dark-skinned and poor people be treated with dignity and have access to the same areas that they have.

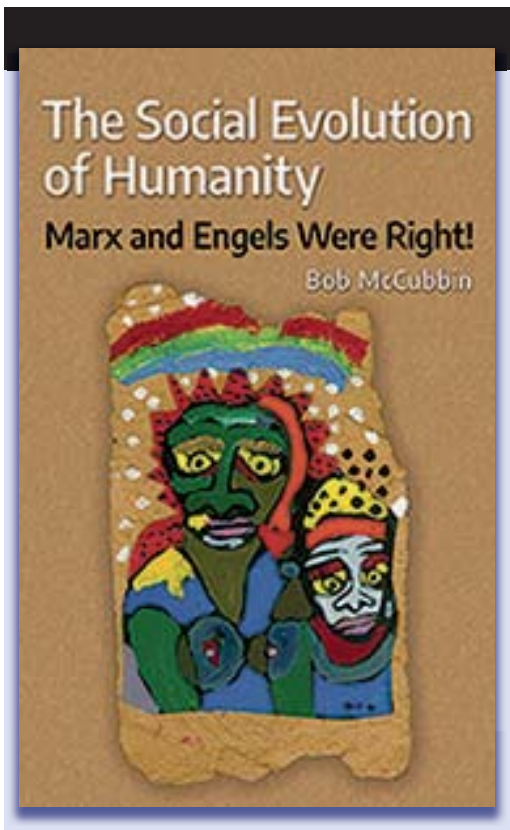
They see in Lula and the PT the reason why they no longer have the right to call Black people slurs or pay almost nothing to their maids. They hate them for putting dark-skinned people in universities instead of prisons, and for being forced to treat LGBTQ2S people with the respect that they deserve.

As an Internet commentator said, "How do we expect people who refuse to accept the law that abolished slavery to understand the Federal Constitution?"

The road ahead for Lula is long. He will still have to face trial on other trumped-up accusations, but for now he can speak and his voice is being heard clearly by the part of the Brazilian population that refuses to allow that neofascists, racists, homophobes, sexists, bigots and religious zealots take control of their country.

The writer is an Afro-Brazilian activist based in Los Angeles.

NEW BOOK BY BOB MCCUBBIN



The Social Evolution of Humanity

Marx and Engels were right!

A new book by **Bob McCubbin**

https://tinyurl.com/vwarcv7

This study of the evolution of humanity focuses on human social/sexual relations and, in particular, the changing social status of women.

It offers a selection of scientific evidence that updates and augments the viewpoint expressed in Frederick Engels' masterful work, ***'Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State.'***

McCubbin is the author of ***'Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View.'*** First published in 1976, during the first flush of the modern LGBTQ2S movement, McCubbin's unparalleled achievement was to offer a historical analysis of when, where, why and how LGBTQ2S oppression developed.

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International Solidarity Conference in Cuba calls for 'Counteroffensive against imperialism'

By Miranda Etel

Raul Castro Ruz, President Nicolás Maduro and President Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez greeted the conference. SLL PHOTOS

Havana — According to the conference final declaration, 1,332 activists and revolutionaries from 86 countries around the world attended the three-day Anti-Imperialist Solidarity Conference for Democracy and Against Neoliberalism in the Cuban capital from Nov. 1-3.

Contingents represented more than 750 organizations united in remarkable and vigorous solidarity for socialist Cuba.

The call for this gathering was announced following May Day 2018 by the president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), Fernando Gonzalez Llort. Gonzalez is one of the Cuban 5 heroes who spent long years imprisoned in the U.S., which Jose Marti rightly termed "the belly of the beast."

Gonzalez and Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodrigez Parrilla opened the conference, along with a video tribute to historic leader of the Cuban Revolution Fidel Castro, whose leadership was remembered throughout the weekend.

The event took on the character of a call to united action for international solidarity in what a delegate from Peru named a counteroffensive to imperialist aggression and intervention in the Global South.

'Dare to debunk myths'

Six work commissions focused discussion and action proposals on topics ranging from people before free trade and transnationals; integration and common struggles; democracy, sovereignty and anti-imperialism; and decolonization, strategic communication and social struggle.

Young people from all around the world spoke in the youth commission, organized by Cuba's Union of Young Communists (UJC).

The largest commission by far was solidarity with Cuba and other just causes.

This Cuba solidarity commission became a conference inside a conference. It was held at the campus of the Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM), with two plenaries and cultural presentations from medical students.

ELAM students in their white coats, national dress and with some holding their national flags, lined the walkway into the school in a joyous greeting. Participants discussed action proposals divided by geographical regions to be reported back the next day.

Uniting all attendees was the common need to combat incorrect and slanderous attacks on socialism being made online and in the bourgeois news media.

In his keynote speech at the end of the conference, President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela declared, "It's necessary to take paths of courage and dare to debunk myths, blackmail, and lies."

In the final action plan assembled by the conference, eight different proposed actions involved media strategies, such as creating an Anti-Imperialist Media Alliance to create media that is "collectively organized and coordinated, for the truth and based on peoples' resistance."

The program pledged to support alternative news sources such as HispanTV, Russia Today, and Cubainformación, meant to be an alternative news source for solidarity with the Cuban struggle. Additionally, the conference resolved to carry out coordinated international media campaigns on the 17th of every month.

Cuban representatives and supporters vigorously denounced the U.S. blockade and demanded: #ManosFueraDeCuba (Hands Off Cuba)!

Internationalist unity

Resoundingly, the activists and representatives in the conference plenaries affirmed and reaffirmed their support for President Evo Morales and Bolivia. Speakers praised Evo for championing the fight against climate change in Latin America and the rights of Indigenous people and for implementing progressive reforms for the people of Bolivia.

Speakers opposed the neoliberal undertakings of the International Monetary Fund in various countries, including Ecuador. Representatives from Chile called for solidarity in the popular struggle against the brutal Piñera regime and overturning the legacy of the Pinochet dictatorship.

Again and again, representatives and speakers demanded freedom for falsely imprisoned former Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Chants of "Lula Livre" rocked Havana's Convention Center. Boxes containing more than 2 million Cuban signatures for his release were delivered to the Brazilian delegation.

Among many issues raised, the conference called for the liberation of Palestine from Israeli apartheid, the fall of the fascist Duterte regime in the Philippines, an end to the trade war against China, and support for the people's movement in Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Indigenous activists from the Wet'suwet'en nation sang a protest chant in defense of Native land and the climate. Anti-imperialists from the United States raised the big banks' racist austerity measures in Detroit and big business attacks on public housing tenants in the South Bronx.

The conference celebrated the revolutionary advances made by Cuba in the fields of education and healthcare. Cuba founded the Latin American School of Medicine, which trains and sends doctors all over the world to countries where medical care is needed. Numerous current and former students of ELAM attended.

Cuba's historical defense of the liberation struggles on the African continent, including those in Angola, Namibia, Libya and Zimbabwe, was held in the highest esteem.

Venezuelan leader speaks

In the closing session, Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez and Army General and First Secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee Raul Castro Ruz were joined by Bolivarian Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro Moro.

Greeted by thunderous chants and cheering, President Nicolás Maduro put into words the overwhelming spirit of unity that flowed through the conference. "The revolutionary force of a conscious people is unstoppable," he proclaimed to an enthusiastic and emotional audience.

After analyzing 30 years of the history of struggle and revolution in Latin America, Maduro stated that through building unity, the people of Latin America may stand together and form an unstoppable resistance to neoliberalism and imperialism. He emphasized that building unity and solidarity is crucial for opening up "roads to the truth" in the face of campaigns to divide left-wing, progressive and popular movements.

Furthermore, Maduro stressed, "It is the people that must stand together and obligate that our rulers stand together and respect each other." He concluded that the people of Lat-

Continued on page 7

PHOTOS: BILL HACKWELL

Hong Kong riots share tactics, aims of Bolivia coupmakers

By Scott Scheffer

Nov. 21 — A standoff between authorities in the Chinese territory of Hong Kong and U.S.-backed rioters who occupied Polytechnic University appears to be winding down. Hong Kong police have the upper hand with a handful of holdouts still inside.

While Nov. 18 saw one of the most violent confrontations to date, after months of right-wing, anti-communist riots, the majority of those who had occupied Polytechnic exited the campus when the police were poised to move in. Much of the university, including libraries and other facilities used by students, has been destroyed.

Destruction of government buildings, blockades of mass transportation, bridges and other public facilities, and violent attacks on police and Hong Kongers loyal to socialist China are the hallmarks of this "democratic movement," as the Western media characterize it.

This was only the latest episode — and with imperialist maneuvering driving the chaos, a return to normalcy is far from certain.

The U.S. and Britain have egged on the pro-Western protests in an attempt to separate Hong Kong from China. Hong Kong was returned to China in 1997, after the British stole it in 1847 during the Opium Wars and held it as a colony for 150 years.

In the 1997 agreement, China allowed that capitalism could continue to function in Hong Kong until 2047. What was essentially a "mini-constitution" for the city, called the Basic Law, was put in place. The agreement granted wide autonomy to the Hong Kong administration and gave final authority regarding any changes to the agreement to the central government of China.

Hong Kong residents hold memorial for sanitation worker killed after being hit in the head by a brick hurled by U.S.-backed rioters.

Right-wing rebellion

What is in fact a right-wing rebellion began in early 2019 over an attempt to pass an extradition law to send a man, who had admitted to murdering his girlfriend, to Taiwan. Similar treaties exist between many countries in the world.

The legislation was later withdrawn as a concession to the protesters, but by that time their demands had morphed into distancing Hong Kong from the People's Republic of China. Large numbers of protesters faded away at that point.

Now a smaller, more violent group, coaxed by imperialist functionaries, continue the mayhem. Tactics have shifted from mere property destruction to more use of petrol bombs, hurling bricks, violent attacks and the latest addition: bows and flaming arrows.

Until now, the Hong Kong police have been restrained, compared to what would have happened anywhere in the U.S. under similar circumstances. Imagine the U.S. response if Chinese officials were advising Black Lives Matter or Antifa organizers!

Links to Bolivia coup

The leaders of the Hong Kong protests have carried out actions and have associated with characters that reveal tactical similarities to the so-called color revolutions and other regime-change operations organized by intelligence agencies of the U.S.

One example that comes to mind is how a Venezuelan "opposition" crowd burned an Afro-Venezuelan man to death in May 2017. Earlier this month, the "peaceful protesters" in Hong Kong doused a man arguing with them with a flammable liquid and lit him on fire as well.

In an episode of a podcast called "China Unscripted," a ridiculous anti-communist host interviewed a young Bolivian woman named Jhanisse Vaca-Daza, who talked about her "nonviolent activism" in Bolivia. She and a handful of others led a propaganda blitz that blamed Bolivian President Evo Morales for the massive fires in the Amazon rainforest, effectively using Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro's profit-driven recklessness as a counter-revolutionary propaganda tool.

She also praised and candidly admitted that she's met with Hong Kong protest leaders.

Vaca-Daza happens to be the "Freedom Fellowship Manager" at the Human Rights Foundation. On her LinkedIn profile, the Freedom Fellowship is described in typical National Endowment for Democracy language as "a one-year program that awards ten human rights advocates, social entrepreneurs and nonprofit leaders from countries ruled by authoritarian regimes around the world with the unique opportunity to dramatically increase the impact of their work."

Numerous U.S. officials have met directly with leaders of the Hong Kong riots. Late in August, some anti-China Hong Kong officials flew to Montana and met under the radar with a bipartisan group, including a U.S. senator and three representatives, to discuss legislation to punish China for "human rights violations."

The fruit of that meeting is a pair of bills championed by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and passed by both houses of Congress on Nov. 21: the so-called "Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act." One bill mandates an annual review to determine if Hong Kong's level of autonomy warrants continuing special trade status and allows sanctions to be imposed. The second bill blocks sending nonlethal ammunition to the Hong Kong police.

The response from China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Geng Shuan, was swift and angry: "This act neglects facts and truth, applies double standards and blatantly interferes in Hong Kong affairs and China's other internal affairs.

"The United States must immediately stop interfering in Hong Kong affairs and China's other internal affairs, or the negative consequences will boomerang on itself," the official said.

Many view Donald Trump's ongoing trade war with Beijing as a possible restraint on more direct U.S. attacks on China's sovereignty. But so far it has not restrained them.

Hong Kong is part of China. The Chinese government and People's Liberation Army may have no choice but to reinforce the Hong Kong police and end what is essentially a U.S. intervention in Hong Kong.

International Day of Solidarity with Palestine

Protests were held Nov. 15 as part of the call for an international day of solidarity with Palestinian resistance. Israeli assassinations and bombing raids over two days of attacks killed 34 Palestinians in Gaza, including eight members of one family, and injured 111 more. Pictured, an action organized by Youth Against War & Racism in Baltimore.

SLL PHOTO

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L.A. protest condemns Bolivia coup

By John Parker

An emergency demonstration was held Nov. 11 at the Bolivian Consulate in the Koreatown section of Los Angeles. Well over 100 activists formed a loud and militant picket line with chants demanding an end to the U.S.-backed coup and pledging solidarity to Evo Morales and all the Indigenous people of Bolivia forced to endure this racist attack against their self-determination.

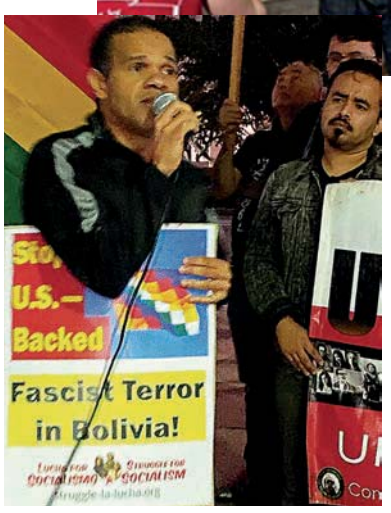
The action was initiated by Unión del Barrio, the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice and the Socialist Unity Party/Partido de Socialismo Unido, and joined by other organizations, including Frente Indígena de Organizaciones Binacionales, the American Indian Movement SoCal, the Party for Socialism and Liberation, the FMLN (Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front) and MEChA de UCLA. Maria Flores of UdB and Jefferson Azevedo of SUP/PSU chaired the rally.

A much smaller crowd of pro-U.S. imperialism, anti-Morales right-wingers tried to shut down the action, but were met with a wall of sound and bodies refusing their encroachment into the demonstration, forcing them to eventually leave.

Corporate media outlets were also present covering the demonstration. The event was live-streamed and photos were constantly being posted to social media. Reflecting on the success of the action, Unión del Barrio later noted on the Facebook event page: "It was beautiful to see so many leftist and Indigenous organizations in LA unite to stand in solidarity with Evo Morales and the people of Bolivia!"

A second action at the consulate, called by the ANSWER Coalition, AIM SoCal, Me Too Survivors March and others, was held on Nov. 16.

For more coverage of Bolivia solidarity protests, visit Struggle-La-Lucha.org.



SLL PHOTOS: MAGGIE VASCASSENNO AND SCOTT SCHEFFER

Bolivia solidarity protests Nov. 11 and Nov. 16. Top left, Ron Gochez of Unión del Barrio speaks. Above, Jefferson Azevedo.

Cuban solidarity conference

Continued from page 5

in America share a common destiny and that the road to victory must be charted by the people with courage.

President Maduro described threats aimed at Bolivia's President Evo Morales Ayma made by Luis Fernando Camacho, a fascist millionaire figure of the right-wing opposition. Morales was forced to renounce his title of democratically-elected leader of Bolivia under pressure from the OAS-backed fascist coup on Nov. 10, just a week after Maduro's address in Havana.

According to Maduro, Camacho gave Evo an ultimatum to either leave his office in 24 hours or get "knocked out." Maduro compared this threat to a Nazi tactic. Nevertheless, he confidently declared, "[The Bolivian opposition] will not be knocking out Evo. They will not be able to knock out the people of Bolivia. This ultimatum is not against Evo, it's against the people of Bolivia — the Native people. That is the truth."

The Bolivian military may have turned on the people in favor of the fascist opposition, but the people of Bolivia have not wavered in their support for Evo. Marches of tens of thousands of people, led by Indigenous Bolivians, have crowded the streets of El Alto and La Paz. The military has brutally injured hundreds and killed more than two dozen protestors, mainly Indigenous people, but the people's resistance has not let up.

As Maduro projected: "The Native people, the miners, the peasants, the young people of the universities will be in the streets doing whatever it takes to support Evo Morales." The people of Bolivia have yet to prove him wrong.

With emphasis on unity and the duty of the people to propel their leadership forward, Maduro concluded: "Let us have faith and optimism that a historic time has come for unity, and let us have the spiritual force to drive forward in these times in our history. Nobody will take that away from us. Brothers and sisters, ever onward to victory. We shall overcome."

Since 1970, Indigenous people & allies have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the US thanksgiving holiday. Many Native people do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims & other European settlers. Thanksgiving Day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands, and the relentless assault on Native cultures. Participants in National Day of Mourning honor Indigenous ancestors and the struggles of Native peoples to survive today. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection as well as a protest of the racism and oppression that Native people continue to experience.

50th National Day of Morning

Thursday NOV 28, 2019 12 noon – 5 pm

Cole's Hill (above Plymouth Rock) Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360

Unite with us in our struggle to create a true awareness of Native peoples and demonstrate the unity of Indigenous peoples internationally. Help shatter the untrue glass image of the Pilgrims and the unjust system based on racism, sexism, homophobia and the profit-driven destruction of the Earth.

Solidarity with Indigenous struggles throughout the world!
We welcome all our Indigenous relations who have been crossed by the US border and ICE. #closethecamps

"Special message from Leonard Peltier"

Respectful allies welcome

For more information/orientation info@uaine facebook.com/groups/UAINE

No drugs or alcohol allowed [Tentative Social to follow]

#NDOM2019 #NOTHANKSNOGIVING Donate: gf.me/u/vumxka

Excluidas en audiencias de destitución las preocupaciones de las masas

Por Fred Goldstein

Decenas de millones en este país y en todo el mundo justificadamente quieren ver que el abusador derechista, racista y misógino extremista de Trump sea derrotado. Pero se ven obligados a elegir entre Trump, que quiere culpar a Ucrania de sus problemas, y el campo que quiere atacar a Rusia.

El liderazgo del Partido Demócrata ha atado a las masas progresistas a una defensa del militarismo de la clase dominante estadounidense como el precio por destituir a Trump.

Decenas de millones en este país y en todo el mundo justificadamente quieren ver que el abusador derechista, racista y misógino extremista de Trump sea derrotado. Pero se ven obligados a elegir entre Trump, que quiere culpar a Ucrania de sus problemas, y el campo que quiere atacar a Rusia.

Esta es una opción completamente falsa y sin salida.

Esta línea de argumentación ha sido presentada por Nancy Pelosi, Steny Hoyer, Adam Shiff y compañía, sus abogados y sus patrocinadores corporativos. Los autores políticos intelectuales detrás de esta estrategia del juicio político han establecido que los procedimientos sean especialmente perjudiciales para los trabajadores y los oprimidos.

Razones legítimas para querer destitución de Trump

Hagamos un recuento de algunas de las legítimas razones por las que las personas quieren deshacerse de Trump.

Llamó violadores y delincuentes a los mexicanos el primer día en que se postuló para presidente y desde entonces ha continuado vilipendiando a los inmigrantes. Ha obligado a los migrantes que huían de pandillas y escuadrones de la muerte alentadas por los gobiernos imperialistas títeres, fuera de la frontera sur de los EUA.

Trump separó cruelmente a las familias en la frontera, puso a los niños en jaulas y separó a niños de sus padres cientos de kilómetros de distancia sin ninguna forma de reunirlos. Y ha librado una guerra contra los inmigrantes negros y latinos, llamando a África y Haití países de "letrina", además de otras acciones nefastas.

Trump también trató de prohibir la presencia de musulmanes en el país. Ha sido demandado por 14 mujeres por agresión sexual. Se ha jactado de abusar de las mujeres y agarrar sus genitales.

Ha impuesto legislaciones contra los derechos de las personas LGBTQ2S. Ha perdonado a criminales de guerra y a reaccionarios. Ha usado constantemente la Casa Blanca para enriquecerse.

Silencio sobre exenciones fiscales, militarismo de EUA

En cuanto a su actitud hacia la clase dominante, Trump entregó al ejército presupuestos récord y otorgó a los comandantes una amplia autoridad para iniciar operaciones en el campo, a pesar del menoscabo a la OTAN. Él ha manipulado a los patronos y banqueros con exenciones de impuestos por un valor de $1.5 billones ($1.5 trillones US). Le ha dado a los saqueadores corporativos regalos de desregulación ambiental y de seguridad, mientras saquea y envenena la tierra, el mar y el aire, al tiempo que caracteriza el peligro real del cambio climático como un engaño.

Mientras se llevan a cabo las audiencias del juicio político, la administración Trump está librando una guerra contra el líder indígena boliviano, el tres veces presidente Evo Morales. Los generales bolivianos entrenados en subversión y represión por la Escuela de las Américas de los Estados Unidos atacan a las masas bolivianas.

Al mismo tiempo, Trump y Pompeo han estado tratando de derrocar al gobierno progresista y antiimperialista venezolano de Nicolás Maduro.

El Pentágono se ha movido para apoderarse de los pozos petroleros de Siria y ha ayudado al presidente turco, Recip Erdogan, a perseguir a los kurdos sirios.

Ni una palabra sobre todo esto en las audiencias.

La destitución es trampa para trabajadores y oprimidos

La dirección del Partido Demócrata ha orquestado cuidadosamente estas audiencias para excluir todos los temas que preocupan a las masas progresistas. No ha habido una palabra sobre obsequios corporativos, destrucción acelerada del medio ambiente, presupuestos militares récord, desigualdad masiva y creciente, erosión salarial, subempleo, pobreza, privación de alimentos o supresión de votantes en sus llamados a salvar su "democracia".

Todos los medios capitalistas han transmitido este circo reaccionario. Ningún comentarista ha criticado a los políticos por dejar de lado las preocupaciones genuinas del pueblo. Esta ha sido una gran maniobra electoral para el liderazgo del Partido Demócrata en el período previo a las elecciones de 2020. Ha sido una gran evasión de los reales temas candentes de preocupación masiva. Ha revelado en letras grandes el fraude del parlamentarismo capitalista.

Si hubiera habido algún parecido a democracia en este proceso, las organizaciones de masas habrían tenido la oportunidad de enmarcar las preguntas, llamar e interrogar a los testigos del establecimiento de la clase dominante y enmarcar los artículos de juicio político de acuerdo con las necesidades y deseos del pueblo.

Por supuesto, nada de esto es posible bajo la democracia capitalista, que está diseñada para fomentar los intereses del capital y suprimir cualquier disenso anticapitalista.

Lo que realmente se necesita es una movilización masiva, una coalición gigante de organizaciones comunitarias y de trabajadores, grupos de derechos de estudiantes e inmigrantes, organizaciones de mujeres y LGBTQ2S que se movilicen sobre el terreno y sacar, no solo a Trump, sino a los políticos capitalistas, a los burócratas del gobierno y a los cabilderos, fuera de sus posiciones de privilegio y fortalezas políticas. Esto sería preliminar al lanzamiento de un ataque contra el capitalismo mismo.

Lea el artículo completo en http://shorturl.at/uCo29

Desde 1970, en el Día de Acción de Gracias de los Estados Unidos, personas indígenas y sus aliadxs se han reunido al mediodía en Cole's Hill en Plymouth para conmemorar el Día Nacional de Luto. Muchas personas indígenas no celebran la llegada de los peregrinos y otros colonos europeos. El Día de Acción de Gracias nos recuerda el genocidio de millones de indígenas, el robo de sus tierras y el ataque implacable contra sus culturas. Las personas que participan en el Día Nacional de Luto honran a lxs ancestrxs indígenas y las luchas actuales de los pueblos indígenas por su sobrevivencia. Es un día de recuerdo y conexión espiritual, así como de protesta contra el racismo y la opresión que las personas indígenas continúan experimentando.

50º DÍA NACIONAL DE LUTO

Jueves 28 de noviembre de 2019

A las 12 del mediodía en Cole's Hill

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Plymouth, Massachusetts

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¡Solidaridad con las luchas indígenas en todo el mundo!
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* Mensaje especial de Leonard Peltier *
*** Les damos la bienvenida a personas aliadas que sean respetuosas ***
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